

the GROUNDHOG

VOL. 4 - NO. 2 - MAY 1986

A Publication of the Mentone Area Preservation Association

Frank Kirk Remembers

Surveying A Parkway

Flying Navy Planes

A Good Life

When the Lookout Mountain Scenic Parkway is officially opened in Mentone this Saturday, Frank Kirk will be more than an ordinary onlooker. He will be remembering his experiences 61 years ago when he helped Colonel Milford Howard survey the original route.

"I knew Col. Howard real well, and I liked him very, very much. I liked the way he expressed himself. He was an honest man and told good anecdotes about himself. I really pumped him about his interview with Mussolini. But he was a dreamer, and he lacked money to carry out his dreams," says Kirk.

Although Col. Howard's scenic highway was abandoned because of financial and routing difficulties, DeSoto Parkway (Highway 89) today is a result of his initial dream. "At first I drove a wagon and team for him and a couple of other men over to Buck's Pocket to look for a site for his Master's School. I remember that the colonel slept in the wagon bed."

Young Frank Kirk surveyed, with a Mr. Schmidt from Mentone, not only the scenic highway, but U. S. 11 at the same time. The scenic highway went along the brow of the mountain, with the view of the valley present all along. Kirk and others took their surveying notes in to the colonel's office in Chattanooga.

Kirk also cut the poles for the cabin built for Col. Howard at his Master's School site in the Alpine area just south of Mentone proper. "It must



have been the time of year that I cut those logs — they were full of rosin — and it didn't take me long. They're still standing today." "Lady Vivian" Howard was an authoritarian woman and supervised the laying of each rock in the chimney at the west end of the cabin. "I did have help with the roof," Kirk remembers.

What does Frank Kirk remember about Granny Dollar? His ready answer is an imitation of the voice of the legendary Indian: "What's the big idea you boys come by here and don't fling me in some

(Continued On Page 10)

Rhododendron Festival, Scenic Parkway Dedication.....Page 1

Opening Of Area Camps Scheduled.....Page 5

Scenic Parkway Dedicated At Rhododendron Festival

Town Council Limits Water To 325 Meters Because Of Drought

Responding to the worst drought in modern history, the Mentone Town Council at its May 5 meeting unanimously voted to restrict water service to the present level of 325 meters, with no additional commercial units. In his Mayor's Report (see elsewhere) Mayor Rob Hammond urged citizens to voluntarily conserve as much water as possible.

During the meeting other members of the council stressed that there be no car-washing, lawn spraying, and garden watering during this emergency. There was consideration of a special session of the council for strict measures if the emergency continues. Four current applications were approved. There is some possibility that cancellations will make new approvals possible.

Average present usage is 50,000 gallons daily, according to the mayor. Mentone's water supply is obtained from the Fort Payne system under a contract that limits the supply to 3-million gallons per month. In adopting the resolution the councilmen took into effect the usual increased summer usage because of seasonal residents and the five youth camps within the town corporate limits.

Last summer there were no cutoffs by the Fort Payne system, but Mayor Hammond said, "There were a couple of close calls."

In another action, at the request of Dr. William Allgood who was present, the council voted to close Lookout Drive, a street leading to Sunset Rock that exists largely on the map. It was pointed out that some porches and garages were on the never-used street. Dr. Allgood signed an affidavit promising that his family would allow full access to Sunset Rock by the usual opening, just as they have for Beauty Springs below Brow Park.

Other matters discussed were possible employment of a part-time policeman for the summer; alternatives for several streets to be paved; and a generally favorable consideration of use for council meetings and other gatherings in the larger town hall room soon to be vacated by Ellis Clark's hardware store. Cutler Avenue will be closed, by approval of the council, for added parking spaces for the Scenic Parkway on Saturday, May 17th.

Angelo Rosario, who was present, informed the council of details of the Rhododendron Parade and invited Mayor Hammond to be guest of honor in one of the lead cars. All councilmen were present with the exception of James Johnson, who was attending a funeral. — CWM

The Mayor's Report

We are presently experiencing our worst spring drought in history. Hopefully the much needed rains will come soon. Until then we all need to voluntarily conserve as much water as possible.

The town council has also placed a limit on the number of water customers we can serve. Service will be limited to 325 meters. No new large commercial customers will be taken on. These steps were taken to insure that the town can adequately serve its customers based on the amount of water it is able to buy and pump from Ft. Payne.

Soon you will be seeing "DeKalb County Beautiful" signs around Mentone. A clean and litter free community makes a positive statement about what kind of people live there. Instead of gearing up for an annual anti-litter campaign each spring, let's all make a clean community a year round project. — Rob Hammond

Cable TV

Despite delays caused by legal and other details, plans move into shape for local cable television, according to Bill Kidder of Mentone Cable-TV. There is possibility that first subscribers will be connected in about three weeks.

The following steps have been taken: (1) Pole attachment agreement with Sand Mountain Co-op; (2) Satellite obtained; (3) Insurance arranged; (4) Term of agreement with town of Mentone extended from five to 15 years.

A small building will be placed at the water tower site near the satellite. As soon as telephone connections are made orders may be placed.

Election Officials

When Mentone voters go to the polls at the Fire House on Tuesday, June 3, for the primary election, the following commissioners will officiate: Linda Brown, Eleanor Tate, Evelyn Graves, Ivy Lee Stansell and Gertrude Cox. Sammy Cash will be returning officer.

The same officials will serve at the Democratic runoff on June 24.

Music, Food, Crafts This Friday, Saturday

Radio stations across north Alabama are playing a bright Tony Goggans jingle extolling "The Musical Mountain in Springtime!" It's all about the Third Annual Rhododendron Festival this Saturday and Sunday, May 17-18.

A gala parade, bright music, good food, dancing and the crowning of the 1986 Rhododendron Queen share attention with the dedication on Saturday of the new three-state Lookout Mountain Scenic Parkway. Events begin Saturday morning with music by the Mentone Troubadour, Tony Goggans; Terry Hutcheson, and Susan Bolding.

Throughout the weekend Tony acts as emcee, introducing various attractions and calling attention to the various wares of local business people. Sales of Rhododendron plants occur all weekend.

Arts and crafts exhibits will be seen all across Old Hotel Square. Hosting food concessions are the Valley Head Band Boosters, the Valley Head Cheerleaders, and the Valley Promenaders. Corn-on-the-cob vendors Randy Still and Bob Brooks will serve customers right on the spot. Other choices are barbecue, many brands of ice cream made from Lookout Mountain milk, and various other items.

Sharing the spotlight will be viewing of natural rhododendron on Little River from boats, hayrides in Ed Jones' wagon, and clogging by Ovie Blalock's Valley Promenaders and Summerville's Calico Kids. \$1 tickets will be on sale for the double-size wedding ring quilt, made by Mentone quilters under direction of Maggie Cordell, to be raffled on Sunday afternoon at 4 p.m.

A host of dignitaries are in the spotlight for the dedication of the new Scenic Highway at 11:30.

Judging of the annual Moon Lake Art Works program is scheduled for 2:00 p.m. at the Mentone Springs Hotel.

The Rhododendron Beauty Pageant will be at the Mentone Springs Hotel at 7:30 p.m. Walter Sumner is emcee with music provided by Terry Hutcheson and Jane Meadows. Last year's queen Ann Cash will be present.

Following the beauty pageant, at approximately 9:30 (Continued On Page 9)

MAPA At June Jam: Corn, Corn, Corn!

When Alabama band's June Jam V takes place in Fort Payne June 14, the Mentone Area Preservation Association will be in its tent selling hot buttered corn on the cob. MAPA Director Amelia Brooks, her husband Bob, and Cragmere Manna's Randy Still head a contingent of some 28 MAPA folks who will be boiling, buttering, and salting all day for Alabama and for Mentone.

The project was voted on at the April and May meetings of MAPA. Plans will be made final at the June MAPA meeting. Anyone willing to work at the tent will be most welcome. Alabama receives 60 percent of all concession profits for its charitable ventures, and workers keep 40 percent.

Other business at the May 6 MAPA meeting at St. Joseph's-on-the-Mountain Church concerned final plans for the Rhododendron Festival. Harrell Jenkins, Maggie Cordell, Homer Crow and Randy Still will sell quilt raffle tickets at the south plaza in Fort Payne on Saturday and Sunday, May 11 and 12.

Mrs. Brooks will explore the possibility of getting the Mentone brochures printed by prisoners or a school. Total cost is \$3,622, with \$100 voted by the Town Council, \$435 from the state tourism bureau, and with hopes of donations from area businesses which would profit most from the publicity.

A nominating committee was appointed by Director Brooks, consisting of Jean McGehee, Olive Jones, Bill Riedesel, Maggie Cordell, and Donna Buckley. They will report on a slate of 1986-87 officers at the June meeting. Cakes, coffee, and Cokes were served by Maggie Cordell after the meeting adjourned.

JUNE MEETING

MENTONE AREA PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION

Jenny Brownlow Executive Director of Alabama Mountain Lakes Tourist Assn.

Amelia Brooks, Director
St. Joseph's On-the-Mountain Church

Tuesday, June 3, 1986 7 p.m.

Caravans Converge At Old Hotel Square

Invitations have gone out in Alabama, Georgia, and Tennessee for the official opening of the Lookout Mountain Parkway May 17, 1986. Festivities include simultaneous ribbon cutting ceremonies at each end of the parkway — in Point Park, Tennessee, and in Noccalula Falls Park, Gadsden, an hour and a half prior to the driving of the golden spike at Mentone for the dedication ceremony at 11:30 a.m.

Mentone is the approximate half-way point in the almost 100 mile parkway, called "The most scenic 100 miles in America." The parkway uses existing roads atop Lookout Mountain to offer motorists spectacular views and interesting diversions from the interstate highways.

Brochures publicizing the opening of the drive, marked with two foot square green and white aluminum signs, are being issued prior to the ceremonies. The motorcade from Tennessee will be led by Tennessee Tourism Commissioner John Wade, along with Hanna Ledford, Georgia Director from the Department of Industry and Trade. Leading the southern contingent will be Doug Benton, the Alabama Director of Information.

The caravans converge during the first day of the third annual Rhododendron Festival in Mentone. The northern groups will have first participated in the Grand Opening Celebration of the Cartersville in St. Elmo.

(Continued On Page 9)

Our New Fire Chief



By Greg Purvis

Mentone's climate can become very dry and humid during much of the year, conditions which are open invitation to brush and meadow fires. Because of the prolific forests and fields in this area, these fires would be quite serious if it weren't for the efforts of the Mentone Volunteer Fire Department and its new chief, Hershel Pruitt.

Pruitt has lived on Lookout Mountain all his life, attending Menlo Elementary School in Menlo, Georgia, and Chattooga High School in Summerville, Georgia. In 1976 Pruitt and his wife Delight moved to Mentone from Cloudland after the purchase of his grandparents' farm near Little River Church. They are parents of two daughters, Renee and Heather.

Pruitt graduated from Southern Technical Institute with a degree in civil engineering technology. Besides holding the office of fire chief, Pruitt works as a Supervisor in the Civil Quality Control of the TVA.

The coverage area of the fire department extends to the Georgia line on Highway 117 and down to DeSoto State Park. Within this area they have fought a great number of fires and saved many properties and houses from destruction. Pruitt gives much credit to Sammy Cash, the former fire chief, for gaining state aid to help fight these fires. Pruitt expressed appreciation to the mayor and town council for their funds and support and to the people of the Mentone community for their efforts and volunteer service.

Pruitt comments on his goals by stating, "Since having been elected chief I want to continue to serve the needs of the community in the area of fire protection to the best of my ability. I want to encourage the support of the local community for the fire department in any way they can. We are a small organization, but with the help of everyone in the community we can do great things." Another goal, Pruitt says, is the continued upgrade and purchase of equipment. He is also working to gain a lower fire rating in the Mentone area.

Pruitt adds that the fire department in Mentone is always willing and able to help other fire departments, such as Valley Head or Hammondville, in times of need.

Pruitt thanks all of Mentone for the support given to the fire department, but most of all he thanks the volunteer fire fighters, including: Sammy Cash, Donnie Voils, Hobson Kirby, Charles Furgerson, Junior Gray, David Hunter and Sam Whitley.

Hershel Pruitt's community interest is not limited to the fire department. He was recently elected president of the all-important Parent Teachers Association at Moon Lake Elementary School.

MAPA Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by Amelia Brooks, director. The minutes from the last meeting were read and corrected. Treasurer's report was read, showing a balance of \$4,848.04. **Groundhog** report was read, showing a balance of \$846.89.

New business: A nominating committee was formed consisting of Jean McGehee, Donna Bukley, Bill Riedesel, Maggie Cordell, and Olive Jones for the purpose of selecting new officers.

Old business: Brochures: \$435 will be coming from the state tourism department. A discussion was held on various methods of raising the rest of the money. Quilt tickets: Harrell Jenkins, Randy Still, Maggie Cordell will sell tickets at DeKalb Plaza. Parkway: Need for organized parking was discussed. June Jam Corn on the Cob: Randy reported on costs. Motion was carried to sell 5,000 ears. Rhododendron Festival: Donna reported on schedule. Motion was carried to have 5,000 maps printed. Angelo reported on parade. Meeting adjourned at 8:15.

— Condensed from minutes of Bill Riedesel, Secretary.

Groundhog Finance Report

April Issue

Income	
Balance on hand	\$800.97
Ad Sales	770.00
	\$1,570.97
Debits	
Greg Purvis, reporting	\$15.00
McGehees, expenses, editing	100.00
Donna Bukley, sales, delivery	145.50
U. S. Post Office	74.08
The Summerville News Co.	389.50
	\$784.08
Balance on hand	\$846.89

DeKalb 150

Various celebrations and commemorative editions are observing the 150 Anniversary of the founding of DeKalb County. A resolution in connection with the event was adopted by the Alabama Legislature, sponsored by Senator Lowell Barron.

The resolution cites that the county was created on January 9, 1836, and named for Johann DeKalb who served heroically under General George Washington during the American Revolution. It also notes the history of the Cherokee, Creek, Choctaw, and Chickasaw Indians, who following the treaty of Echota were placed in stockades, one of which became the city of Fort Payne, named for the commanding officer of the fort.

Beverly Hoyt, president of the Rhododendron Garden Club, and Gerry Disney, president of the Valley Head Woman's Club, recently were part of the DeKalb 150 Committee which paid a visit to the Winston House in Valley Head.

Business News

Randy Still's Cragmere Manna Restaurant returns to its regular schedule. Summer hours will be Wednesday through Saturday, 5-9 p.m., Sunday buffet 12-3. Innovations are the new chef Don Phillips, whose salad bar and decorous cuisine are especially admired at the Sunday buffets. The new Garage, a rustic setting of stone and barnwood decor, is a popular site for parties and family groupings.

Jingle Town USA is a new local business owned and

NOTICE

Out-of-Town Groundhog Readers:

Renew Your MAPA Membership By July First To Continue Receiving Groundhog

To MENTONE AREA PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION, BOX 50 in support of the objectives of MAPA, desiring to join with others in preserving and protecting the heritage, natural environment and other unique qualities of life in the Mentone area, I enclose \$10 for voting membership for one through June 1987.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____



The Groundhog

Published monthly by the Mentone Area Preservation Association. First conceived on Groundhog Day, 1982, and organized April 6, 1982, for the purpose of preserving and protecting the heritage, natural environment, and other unique qualities of life in the Mentone Area. Chartered as a non-profit organization by the State of Alabama.

Charles White McGehee, Editor
Jean McGehee, Associate Editor
Donna Bukley, Advertising, 634-4678
Amelia Brooks, Director
Donna Bukley, Associate Director
Bill Riedesel, Secretary
Shurlee Froehner, Treasurer
Homer Crow, Past Director
Gregory Purvis, Student Reporter

operated by Tony Goggans, known as The Mentone Troubadour. Tony does jingles for small and large businesses, politicians, etc. This unusual business is located on Cutler Avenue, back of the Hitching Post, in a building owned by Sharon Barron.

Olive Jones of Cloudmont Resort reports that their new golf carts have arrived and all is set for a good golfing season.

Brow Briefs

The Gourdis go to Japan! Sharon Barron reports that a recent shipment left Mentone for Japan. It seems that Japanese buyers saw these unique creatures at a show in California and placed an order.

The unbelievable happened when Guy Staub, Mentone architect in charge of the DeKalb County Jail renovations, announced that the work will cost less than the original estimate.

Ruby Sully was recently photographed in *The Fort Payne Times-Journal* in connection with her volunteer work at the DeKalb County Library as part of the RSVP, Doyal Benefield, MAPA member and former director of DeSoto State Park, is now home from Baptist Medical Center in Birmingham. He is slowly improving, receiving physical therapy.

Last month's "Leftovers" included a story about Mentone, Texas, quoting Charles Kuralt as writing that it contains one person for each seven miles. No longer is there oil or drinking water. Yet a recent network newscast stated that Mentone, Texas, is the richest per person town in Loving County — and the only town in that county.

Travel experts are predicting that because of the serious incidents of terrorism in Europe, American tourists will be "Seeing America First." This means that Alabama's already flourishing tourist industry will benefit. As one of the state's supreme beauty spots, Mentone will see more visitors. Our business people will doubtless be happy about this.

Mayor Townsend, 61, retired librarian of Carmel, California, was defeated by actor Clint Eastwood recently. "I hope more people around the country become involved in small town elections because of this," said Mrs. Townsend.

Mentone property-owner Willie Nelson sang with the Houston Symphony Orchestra at San Jacinto State Historical Park in celebration of the Texas Sesqui-centennial on April 21. It was a significant event at this site near Houston, where an immense monument higher than the Washington monument towers above the historic battlefield. In addition to Willie, Texas governor Mark White was there, along with Houston Mayor Kathy Whitmire, and ABC "Nightline" commentator Ted Koppel. The *Groundhog's* advertising coordinator Donna Bukley, visiting friends in Houston, was also at the occasion. Donna took a photo of the above group but it was from a distance and unusable.

Mentone residents have reached out to Councilman Bill Russell during the deaths, within a week, of his mother-in-law and wife.

The family of Michael Danny Hopper wish to thank all the people for their concern following his tragic hunting accident. As we go to press, he is recovering at home.

Congratulations to Greg Purvis, the *Groundhog* student reporter, for being cited in the Times-Journal's FPHS FLASH! for being a Journalism Staffer in the school publication.

Variety Is Expected At Crafts Festival

Mentone Crafts Festival X this July 5 and 6 at Brow Park draws near. "Applications are coming in steadily and there is a good variety of crafts," says President Linda Brown. Other officers are Barbara Blalock, secretary; Richard Meadows, treasurer; Sunny Mays, vice president.

Mountain Watch

By Charles White McGehee

This is being typed on an ancient Underwood 5 upright typewriter. It was bought at the Hitching Post several years ago. Peter Tytell, a collector of antique typewriters, recently said it is "arguably the best machine of its type." Not that it matters particularly, but Andy Rooney uses one.

At around the age of twelve I often kept my father's law office in McComb, Mississippi, when his secretary was on vacation, or on some weekends. The office machine was a new Underwood 5. As I laboriously taught myself to type, the touch of the Underwood seemed near-sensual, its operation crisp and compelling. So it has seemed since that time.

I've found electric typewriters unsatisfactory. Their soft touch deprives me of the rhythmic clatter of the Underwood 5. Each experience with an electric machine has been frustrating and unsatisfying.

I seem to have developed a mode of communication with a typewriter that is gratifying and for me productive. Thoughts seem to flow in a rhythmic, free fashion. Perhaps this is because I have used a typewriter for virtually all of my writing since childhood.

As an excuse for my horrible handwriting, I often tell the story that is a pale rationale. When I was in the fourth grade a professional teacher of penmanship came to school to give lessons. It involved a fee and my mother told me the family could not afford this expense. So, for my lack of discipline and my love of the Underwood 5, I say, "My handwriting is lousy because my family was too poor to let me take penmanship in school."

I shudder at how I would come out on one of those handwriting analyses that allege to evaluate your character on the basis of penmanship. There is a type of handwriting that is unreadable but elegant in appearance. Most doctors write their prescriptions in this style. My handwriting looks horrible and is virtually unreadable. At best I might stumble in with an evaluation of some creativity but no form or discipline.

Sometimes I toy with the thought of a word processor. They give one a flexibility of corrections, no fussing with carbons. But I know I would suffer from loss of the gratifying touch and staccato sound of my old Underwood 5.

When I was at the busiest time of my career and had efficient secretaries, I was never comfortable with dictation. My thoughts seemed screened and subdued by the added factor of voice, rather than thoughts flowing directly into the typewriter. So the important letters I typed myself. Or, at least did a fast rough draft which was given the secretary.

This was equally true with my efforts to conserve time by using a dictation machine which could be carried around and used in spare moments. It saved time, but did not meet my needs for a sense of free and orderly thought.

In newspaper offices and radio station continuity rooms, I spent eight-hour days basking in the sound of multiple typewriters. I loved the large type on the machines we wrote radio scripts on. Once the manager of the radio station bought new typewriters for the entire staff. He wrote memos to us, telling us to treat our new typewriters with loving care, like someone we admired, that they respond to our treatment in the manner that people do. At the time I thought he was something of an unfeeling codger. Looking back, I see he must have had the same feelings about typewriters that I do.

At the radio stations there were occasionally small stacks of teletype paper left over when the changes were made. These are foldovers in lengths of about a foot and a half. I'd take some stacks of these home and insert them into my typewriter when I wrote short stories, or in my efforts to get novels completed and published. What a joy it was just to get going on fast-speed, creative writing, not having to stop to change pages. Some of those lengths of teletype paper could have been a hundred-foot long.

My first portable was a very flimsy Corona. I used it for years. Now I have a second-hand later model Smith-Corona, which is good to take on trips. I've used it on the tailgate of the VW bus for the writing of sermons on Jacksonville and St. Augustine beaches.

Once an interviewer went to write an article about William Faulkner when he was lecturing at the University of Virginia and living with his daughter Jill and her husband. He was directed to a room behind the garage. On the way around to the interview, the writer heard and later wrote with eloquent empathy about the sound of this genius — translated into the uneven, clackety gait and tone of a cheap, portable typewriter. To him, it seemed incredible.

Who am I to write of myself in terms of William Faulkner, except that I am certain he would have envied me this venerable Underwood 5 that I am writing on at this moment.

An added feature of the entertainment this year will be the Thunder Mountain Expirations with Mentone members Mack and Lula Blalock and with Casey Jones, E. L. Harris, Champ Windam and Ruby Jones. In addition, there will be the popular clogging and square dancing by the Valley Promenaders, the DeSoto Squares, the Country Creek Cloggers, and the Little River Cloggers.

Homemade ice cream will be served both days, courtesy of the Valley Promenaders and the DeSoto Squares. Other food will be provided by the Church of God; the fire department will have the drinks trailer.

There will be better parking facilities this year since fathers of Little League ball teams from Valley Head and Hammondville will be assisting Mentone fathers in directing the parking. Other traditional duties will be the gates, staffed by the Rhododendron Garden Club; Bobby Brown is responsible for electrical hook-ups; and Barbara Blalock will assign areas for exhibitors.

Some 75 exhibitors and demonstrators are expected. Sunny Mays is in charge of advertising and publicity.

Valley Head Honor Roll

The Valley Head Honor Roll from Mentone for the fifth six weeks is as follows: 12th grade: Bonnie Blalock, Susanne Crabtree, Karen Prestwood (A's and B's). 11th grade: Steve Campbell, Lisa Huskey (A's and B's). 10th grade: Lea Smith, Brevin Brown (All A's), Karen Bain, Leslie Bell Smith, Missy McSpadden (A's and B's). 9th grade: Jennifer Prestwood (All A's), Laura Harrison, Jennifer Sutton (A's and B's). 8th grade: Andrea Kirby, Holly Brown (All A's), Georgette McGee, Shannon Hunt (A's and B's). 7th grade: Charles Pullen (All A's), Michelle Durham, Krissy Worthey (A's and B's).

Congratulations to all these students.

Valley Head Road Paved



Because it is said to be one of the most heavily travelled roads in the county, the Old Valley Head Road (County Road 137) from Fort Payne to Valley Head is likely to be four-laned if a plan introduced by County Commissioner W. C. Buttram works out.

Buttram, who is president of the commission, says that Mentone, Valley Head, Hammondville, and Fort Payne would benefit. He stated that assistance would have to come from the industries located along the road. A special committee is being formed from those communities involved.

A Senior Extravaganza

The Valley Head High School Class of 1986 hosted a variety show entitled "A Senior Extravaganza" on May 15 at 7:00. Graduation exercises will begin at 8:00 on May 30 in the football stadium.

Wanda Marie Russell

Wanda Marie Russell, 35, passed away April 23, 1986, at her residence in Mentone. Funeral services were held April 25 from the Burt-Whitmore Chapel in Valley Head, the Rev. Billy Boozer, officiating. Burial was April 27 in Thompsonville, Kentucky. Survivors include her husband, Bill Russell; daughter, Angela Russell; stepdaughters, Brenda Gross, Sandra Benton, Pam Cote of Indiana; father, Granville Goss, Mentone. Mrs. Russell was a member of the Church of God of Prophecy. She was preceded in death by her mother, Frances Maynard Goss, April 19, 1986.

CARD OF THANKS

Perhaps you sent a lovely card,
Or sat quietly in a chair.
Perhaps you sent a funeral spray;
If so, we saw it there.
Perhaps you spoke the kindest words
That any friend could say.
Perhaps you were not there at all,
Just thought of us that day.
Whatever you did to console our hearts,
We thank you so much, whatever the part.
— the Family of Bill and Angela Russell
and Granville Goss

Desoto Park News

According to Talmadge Butler, the new director of Desoto State Park, things are coming along swiftly in preparation for the Memorial Day opening of the park pool and hiking programs. The work on providing a leak-proof liner for the pool and various other repairs are moving as scheduled, Butler said. The naturalists and activities directors are developing a nature program which will also be employed starting on Memorial Day, May 26.



*Bed 'N'
Breakfast*

Catering Only:
Bridge Groups, Luncheons,
Dinners, Receptions, Picnic Baskets.

Reservations: or Write P. O. Box 284
205-634-4836 Mentone, AL 35984
Amelia Kirk-Brooks, Owner



Moon Lake School News

Perfect Attendance

Principal Charles O. Bell announces perfect attendance records for seven months of this school year: Kindergarten, Grace Godbois, teacher: Brad Hale and Haley Hilliard.

Grades 1 and 2, Brenda Bobo, teacher: Amy Crane, Cassidy Hudgins, Heather Jackson, Brandon Taylor.

Grades 2 and 3, William Berry, teacher: Nichole Cash, Jennifer Hale, Cherie Keith, Eric King, Chris Smith.

Grades 4 and 5, Joyce Smith, teacher: Michael Flannigan, Bridgett Blalock, Sally Sharp, Junior Smith, Kip Taylor, Carla King, Whitney Smith, Kelly Johnson, Stacie Whorthey.

Grades 5 and 6, Charles Bell, teacher: Shannon Blalock, Sam Whatley, Clay Green, Ivy Godbois, Allison Kirby, Tiffany Coots, Dewayne Cash, Clark Smith, Chris Stallings.

Those students in Moon Lake School having perfect attendance for six months are Starla Crowe; Curt Miller, Renee Pruitt, Brian Smith, Chris O. Smith, Terry Durham, Holly Gardner, Josh Godbois, Jason Goss, Marian Crane, Jeff Crow, Jennifer Furgerson.

Those with perfect attendance for five months are Mandi Browder, Brian Blalock, Kerry Blalock, Lee Worthey, Matthew Kilgore, Nicky Langston, Matthew Smith, Shaunathan Bell, Timmy Brown, Trevor Strickland, Darin Smith, Charlton Bell, Nathan Baggett, Richard Harrison, Laura Schoen.

Those attending for four months with no absences are Anna Crow, Joseph Bain, Kevin Worthey, John Chambers, Vanessa Helms.

Three months of perfect attendance: Adam Hilliard, Michael Shandruk, Yon Hopper, Toby Manifold, Mary Battles, Carlotta McGee, Denise Hilliard, Wendy Manifold.

Two months: April Hunter; one month, Andrea Powell.

DeKalb County Beautiful

The following is a list of Moon Lake students who were winners in the DeKalb County Beautiful Contest: Kindergarten — Grant Meadows, whose parents are Anita and Treman Meadows; First Grade — Kerry Blalock, whose parents are Gayle and Jimmy Blalock; Second Grade — Joseph Bain, son of Joann and Johnny Bain; Third Grade — Jason Goss, whose parents are Brenda and Postmaster Benny Goss.

Each child received a "Happy Meal" and their pictures were displayed at McDonald's in Fort Payne.

Bicycle Winner

Darrin Smith, a fourth grade student at Moon Lake School, won a 10-speed bicycle given away by the Coke Company. His name was drawn by Helena Furgerson at the Strawberry Patch Restaurant in Mentone. Darrin is the son of Gayle and Donnie Smith.

DID YOU KNOW

That according to Postmaster Benny Goss, the Mentone Post Office has grown by 25 new boxes during the past few months?

Head Shed

From Trims to Perms, We Have
All Your Hair Care Needs.



We Now Have 2 Tanning Beds!

Call for Appointment . . . Open 6 Days 8-5
(7 p.m. for Tanning)

Phone 635-6748

Essay Winner



John Chambers, age 10, a 4th grader at Moon Lake School, won the DeKalb County Beautiful Contest in the grades 4-6 division. He was awarded a \$50 gift certificate from Wal-Mart in Fort Payne. John received a letter of congratulations from County School Superintendent Franklin Kellett. His parents are Juanita Hartline and Milton Chambers of Mentone.

How We Can Keep DeKalb County Beautiful

By John Chambers

Do not throw candy wrappers, Coke bottles, or anything like that out the car window. Do good things for DeKalb County like picking up candy wrappers, cans, bubble gum wrappers, and put them into the trash can in a public park. If you are taking a walk, take a small trash bag or paper bag and pick up some junk or trash that people have thrown out to litter. Most of all if you have a baby do not be driving down the road and throw the dirty diaper out the window. If an animal has been run over by a car and killed, do not throw it on the side of the road. Give a hoot, don't pollute!

DOWNER'S SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL

Residential and Commercial

Route 1, Valley Head, Ala.
635-6379

Furgerson Grocery

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FRESH MEATS — PICNIC SUPPLIES

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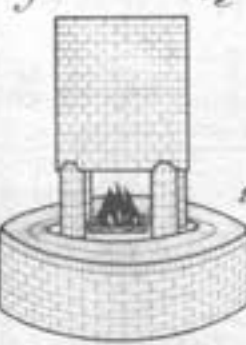
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DeSoto Rescue Squad

In the May meeting of the DeSoto Rescue Squad, plans were discussed for future rappelling instruction. The aid during the June Jam was briefly discussed as well as plans for further first-aid training. Present members were given their first-aid cards for last month's training.

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Historic Preservation



By Lib Howard

The clean, almost white Fort Payne Depot, accented with pink slabs of limestone, and topped by a glistening copper roof, appears much as it did 95 years ago when it first served as a passenger station. Unused for this purpose since 1970, the structurally sound Richardsonian Romanesque boom building, which is registered in the prestigious National Register of Historic Places, is being carefully restored by means of public contributions by Landmarks of DeKalb County Museum, Inc., to serve as our county's first public historical museum. It will feature artifacts and historic memorabilia pertaining to the history of this area and will also offer temporary displays and collections to help maintain interest among local patrons.

Many have marveled at the excellent renovation work, performed methodically and expertly by Mentone's dependable and versatile Sam Sutton and his crew. (Col. Milford Howard would surely have lauded Sam as a "master craftsman"). Under his direction, and with the faithful supervision and consultation of Bill Mattox and L. D. McReynolds, museum directors, a truly outstanding job has been done on this formerly dilapidated old building.

Before the long-awaited museum can become a reality, however, the badly damaged floors must be restored. To complete this work it was necessary to secure an \$18,000 bank loan, as only approximately \$52,500 of the needed \$70,000 had been collected. It is hoped that enough contributions will soon be made to enable the directors to repay the loan and to concentrate upon securing display cases and starting the processing of museum items.

Contributions may be made to the following museum directors: Emma Jordan, Marjorie Ferguson, Lib Howard, Mary Nell Isbell, Myron Raymond, Frances Smith, Bill Mattox, Bob Harn, Terry Gillis, Willard Israel, Ross Siragusa, Jr., and L. D. McReynolds.

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SUBJECT TO ACTION OF THE DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY
JUNE 3, 1986 — RUN-OFF JUNE 24, 1986

- OLD ENOUGH TO MAKE SOUND DECISIONS
- YOUNG ENOUGH FOR NEW IDEAS
- MATURE ENOUGH TO KNOW THE DIFFERENCE

PD. POL. ADV. BY SID HOLCOMB, CROSSVILLE, AL

Mentone Camps Ready For 1986

(Special Supplement)

Formation of the new Lookout Mountain Camping Association, addition of a new camp, and a general forward thrust — the 1986 season of the Mentone area youth camps is about to get underway. First camp to open is Alpine on June 2. Camps in this area are generally recognized as the largest configuration of camps in the nation. In the April issue of *Alabama Magazine* DeKalb County Health Director Jim Russell calls "Camping in our county a \$3-million summer industry, with thousands of kids camping on thousands of acres devoted to camps of all kinds." Mentone citizens, area advertisers, the Mentone Area Preservation Association, and the *Groundhog* staff join in wishing for our camps the finest and happiest season ever.

14th Pre-Camp Meet April 22 At Alpine

Addresses Camp Directors



Officers of the Lookout Mountain Camping Association are Marty Griffin, secretary-treasurer; Sue Henry,

vice president; Dick O'Ferrall, president; Jim Russell, health department.

For the fourteenth pre-camp session, officials of the DeKalb County Health Center met with county camp directors. This year's meeting was held at Camp Alpine April 22 with James C. Russell, administrator of DeKalb and Cherokee Counties Health Department, presiding.

Russell praised those directors present for their leadership in providing guidelines for the Camp Inspection Report for the state department of public health. Directors at Alpine included Dick O'Ferrall, host; Rob Hammond, Camp Laney for Boys; Sue Henry, Camp Desoto; Susan Hooks, Camp Skyline; Roy Johnson and Ken Rees, Comer Scout Reservation; John Morrison, Lookout Mountain Christian Conference Center.

The Camp Inspection Report, begun last year and now established, includes areas to be checked by the state Department of Public Health: water supply; sewage or liquid waste disposal; garbage and refuse disposal; facility construction and operation; buildings; toilet, lavatory, bathing facilities; swimming pools; food service; restriction of animals; health and communicable diseases. A

point system has been devised to grade each item. The new camp inspector for this county is Steve Brown, succeeding Kathy Dowbiggin.

Specific concerns discussed by the various directors included head lice, ticks, water and food. This year all campers will be required to wear helmets when riding horses. Russell believes the buddy system of checking for ticks is a good idea. He cautioned directors about campers getting ear infections when swimming in low water areas, caused by the drought. Joan Wimberly, public health nurse for Area IV, reminded directors not to throw foods in containers they will be cooked in or to cut meats and vegetables on the same counter areas. She also stressed the importance of adult employees having a tetanus shot every ten years.

The principal speaker was Dr. Larry Sullivan, who spoke on emergency treatment for campers (See story elsewhere). Dr. Sullivan stated that the expected date of the completion of the new hospital in Fort Payne is September, 1986.



Dr. Larry Sullivan, Emergency Room Director, Baptist Medical Center DeKalb, spoke to county camp directors at Camp Alpine April 22. A resident of Huntsville, Dr. Sullivan is with a firm that operates emergency rooms in several area hospitals. His remarks are of interest to the public as well as to the camp directors.

An emergency, strictly speaking, is a situation that is "life or limb threatening." Obviously, 90 percent of emergency room patients do not fit this definition.

Dr. Sullivan offered the latest medical advice for various maladies:

Insect stings: Keep the non-prescription medicine Benadryl. Ascertain whether the reaction is systemic (total body) or local. Bring to hospital if systemic.

Snake bites: Less than ten people a year die from snake bites in the whole United States. Most of these are people who keep exotic snakes in their homes. Keep the patient calm; give a cool water bath. Bring to hospital within one hour. Hospitals now have universal anti-venom. Also bring the dead snake to the hospital if possible.

Cuts: Apply direct pressure; wrap tightly. Stop bleeding — hold a blood vessel if necessary.

Broken bones: Ice, elevation, splint. They can wait 24 hours for X-ray if necessary.

Sunburn: Give plenty of water.

Fainting: Don't worry about details of CPR. If breathing stops, get circulation going and air into lungs by pumping on chest and breathing into mouth.

Neck injury: If there are any questions, call paramedics. If patient can move extremities, he or she is all right.

CHEROKEE

Main emphasis at Cherokee Camp for Boys is sports activity. Special fields are aquatics, wrestling, tennis, golf, and team sports such as basketball, football, aquatics, tennis, golf, and soccer. Jim and Becky Worthington live at Cherokee year-round and are involved in horseback instruction and overall management of camp facilities.

Coach Jim Morgan, wrestling coach at the Baylor School in Chattanooga, and Coach Gordon Cornell from McCallie, will direct a wrestling camp, assisted by several college athletes. Dr. Terry Brown from Faulkner University in Montgomery will be in charge of the soccer camp for Youth. Jerry Rice, a well-known high school basketball coach, will be in charge of the basketball camp.

Camp Cherokee will be available for group camps during the early and late summer. This is its first season.

The Cherokee complex spreads over 100 acres, which includes a full gymnasium, athletic field, hard-surfaced tennis courts, twelve cabins, dining hall, staff lounge, stable, and office building. Each cabin accommodates eight campers and a counselor.

Cherokee Camp is located on Cove Road in Walker County, Georgia, about ten miles east of Mentone. The directors are Donald and Becky Guinn.

COMER SCOUTS

The Comer Scout Reservation is composed of some eleven counties called the Choccolocco Council. The Sequoyah District includes DeKalb and Cherokee Counties. Comer won the national Gold Medal for safety and sanitation for several years.

The reservation consists of 1,100 acres, including a 93-acre lake. It is divided into two camps: A. A. Michaels for tent camping and Allen C. Jacobs, 12 A-frame chalets for family camping. There are 13 troop camping sites.

Comer's major emphasis during the summer camping program is on merit badges. Special attention is paid row-

(Continued On Page 7)

The Camps

ALPINE

Mentone's 1986 summer camping season begins June 2 when Alpine Camp for Boys gets underway. This will be Owner-Director Dick O'Ferrall's 28th summer. Program Director Bill Jamieson returns for his 14th summer. Bill is Junior High English teacher at the McCallie School in Chattanooga. Forty-six young men will be working with him on his program staff. They are from colleges throughout the southeastern United States. Twenty of these program persons are returning staff persons and many are former campers.

"Alpine offers a well-rounded program," says Director O'Ferrall. "Activities include swimming, canoeing, crafts, photography, archery, riflery, tennis, horseback riding, nature, team sports, earth games, project adventure, and many special events in each camping session."

Last year's improvements included four new log cabins. Alpine is located in facilities originally built by Colonel Milford Howard. Director O'Ferrall looks forward enthusiastically to the upcoming season. "Alpine anticipates another wonderful summer," he says. "It is exciting to be part of the maturing process of youth."

ADAHI

Pam Ford, a teacher in the Chattooga County (Ga.) schools, returns for her third year as director. John Espy of Menlo lives on the property year-round and was promoted to Camp Ranger in January. Herbert Dodd, also of Menlo, in March became assistant Camp Ranger. The administrative team for Camp Adahi remains the same, but many new counselors are being hired. Positions are still available for general unit counselors.

"The camp program is planned by the girls in partnership with the adult staff," According to Director Ford, "Camp Adahi wants every girl to see herself as increasingly able, competent, and responsible while working with others as a team. It is hoped that girls will build friendships and working relationships through the wide variety of activities and supervised fun that is offered."

Riding programs and the ropes course continue to attract the greatest attention. This summer the riflery program is being expanded. Sessions open June 23 and continue to August 2. Adahi is part of the Moccasin Bend Girl Scout Council in Chattanooga.

DESOTO

Camp DeSoto's 48 buildings are situated in a natural setting. The dining hall seats over 300 campers. The gym provides for basketball, kickball, and other games. The stage, with dressing rooms on each side, is often in use for dramatic productions and worship on Sundays.

Other gathering places for smaller groups include Hill High, a building beyond the play field, with room for meetings, a stage for performances, rehearsals or other various activities, and an enclosed lodge which houses the library and has a fireplace at one end.

All living quarters are frame buildings with screen around the top on all sides. A counselor lives in each cabin with the girls. Bath houses are at convenient intervals along hut row, equipped with showers and flush toilets. Enchanted Forest is the area for the youngest campers, with spacious cabins.

Three distinct and separate camps operate within one

camp. Each girl goes to activities, shares meals, and lives in a cabin with girls of her own age group. Evenings each group has distinct activities or shares in those involving the larger group. For riding there are 26 horses with two rings, seven instructors, and wooded trails.

DeSoto stresses living with nature, backpacking, breakfast and supper cookouts, rappelling and rock climbing, along with archery, canoeing, riflery, swimming, and the usual camp sports.

JULIETTE LOW

Camp Juliette Low was established in 1922 on 10 acres of land just north of Cloudland, Georgia. Juliette Low founded not only the camp but the Girl Scouts of America. It is a non-profit organization, owned and managed by a board of trustees.

Three hundred forty acres in expanse, the camp has a lake for canoeing and sailing instruction; swimming pool; craft house; two recreational lodges and an infirmary. It is certified by the American Camping Association and licensed by the Girl Scouts of America.

Each year Camp Juliette Low operates four two-week sessions, with approximately 100 campers in each session. There are more than 30 staff members with a camp-counselor ratio of about 4-1.

Morning activities are chosen by each camper from a variety of activities, including tennis, archery, handicraft, swimming, nature study, canoeing, sailing, gymnastics, and Project Adventure.

Additional activities are offered in hiking, nature study, conservation, music, games, folk dancing, dramatics, stable management, campfire programs, outdoor cooking, woodchopping, firebuilding, knot tying, lashing, and overnight hikes.

The Counselor in Training program is a two-year course designed to develop leadership, teaching skills, and an understanding of children.

to 25 boys and follows a daily schedule involving horseback, canoeing, Project Adventure, tennis major sports, swimming — with archery and riflery every other day.

Each cabin is supervised by a minimum of two counselors. Campers are never left alone, night or day. Camper-counselor ratio is approximately 5-1. During evenings the campers often go to various spots on the mountain for cookouts and other activities. The Senior Program, limited to 25 boys who have finished the 7th grade, in addition to the regular activities, go on back-packing trips, rappelling, and occasional whitewater canoeing jaunts.

LOOKOUT MT. CHRISTIAN

Running through the camp grounds is Little River, which is dammed to provide a safe swimming area for entire families. The center also provides canoes for races and quiet excursions from the river. The open-air gymnasium provides space for various indoor sports such as basketball, volleyball, and racing.

Near the gym is ample space for softball, soccer, field hockey, and various fun and games. Many wooded paths are available for hiking, birdwatching, and exploring.

John and Ann Morrison are directors. The center has been in the Morrison family since 1927. Central is the historic lodge with its library, meeting place before a large fireplace, wide porches, and sleeping space. Meetings can be held for up to 200 people.

Say the Morrisons: "We are open year-round. Our retreats are usually on weekends during the spring, fall and winter. During the summer we have church camps for a week at a time and also weekend church retreats. We have our usual dining room staff and maintenance workers, plus various teenagers who assist with the work."

The annual day camp this year will be on August 4-8. It is free and open to all children ages 6-16. According to the Morrisons, "We expect to continue to have church and camp retreats and to continually improve the facilities for the comfort and pleasure of those people who come to use the buildings and grounds."

PONDEROSA

Sessions at Ponderosa Bible Camp this summer begin Sunday afternoons instead of Mondays. Director Glenn Miller explains that this makes it possible for parents to bring campers while on a Sunday afternoon drive. Transportation will still be provided for those needing it. This gives five full morning class sessions. In the past the camp was unavailable for weekend rentals, which now are made possible.

Senior Counselor Training, Leadership Training Programs, and CIT are June 15-20. Grades 2, 3, 4, 5 are June 22-27; Grades 4, 5, 6 are July 6-11; Grades 7 and above, July 13-16; Grades 5, 6, 7, July 20-25. In addition to Mr. and Mrs. Miller, other staff persons at Ponderosa are Mr. and Mrs. James Evans and Miss Bess Robertson.

Ponderosa is operated by the Children's Bible Mission, a non-denominational, non-profit Christian home mission program which maintains a doctrinal position of evangelical, conservative fundamentalism. It is operated by the national headquarters in Lakeland, Florida. The facilities were purchased in 1985 from the University of Alabama which had previously conducted a therapeutic camping program for emotionally disturbed children. It is located five miles north of Mentone on Little River. Ponderosa is proud of its new gymnasium and swimming pool.

Director Miller says that at Ponderosa children have a chance to learn new skills, to develop new interests and talents, to fellowship with other Christians, and to grow in understanding.

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LANEY

Camp Laney was founded by Coach Malcolm Laney. Upon his retirement in 1959, Rob Hammond, present mayor of Mentone, became owner-director. Beginning in 1961 Hammond has spent every summer at Laney, progressing from camper to junior counselor and counselor. With his wife San and their son Jordan he lives year-round at the camp.

Laney's central building is the lodge, containing the dining room and kitchen, camp offices, infirmary, and nurses quarters. There is also a gym, swimming pool, new twelve-horse stable, riding ring, three asphalt tennis courts, athletic field, archery and riflery range. Each of the 12 cabins has running water, flush toilets, and a shower.

Campers are divided into seven different activity groups by age and grade in school. Each group has 20

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SADDLE ROCK

"We are expecting a great summer filled with lots of fun — and no rain until after 9 o'clock at night," says Director Marty Griffin of Camp Saddle Rock.

Twenty former staff members will be returning, along with 15 new members. Several of the personnel will be attending the Camp Horsemanship Association workshop at Valley View, the Project Adventure workshop at Camp Laney, and the Audubon session at Camp Alpine.

During the summer sessions a video will be filmed of activities which will be used in recruiting and marketing. The season begins June 13 and concludes Aug. 10.

Director Griffin calls summer camping "An Investment in Living." Saddle Rock offers some 16 different activities, ranging from dance to riding. Each camper takes five activities daily, divided by age groups and skills levels. Each girl is considered an individual and an important part of the overall camp program. Saddle Rock includes Ravine Lake for water activities, comfortable cabins, gymnasium, archery range, stables, tennis courts and other facilities.

SKYLINE

Skyline enters its 40th summer of camping. "We're eager for the summer to arrive as we plan for a safe, happy camping experience for our campers," says Director Susan C. Hooks. "We have put in a request for nighttime rainfall this year — on behalf of all the camps. Six days of heavy rain last year was a little uncomfortable." No major changes in program are underway, but the director says they constantly strive to improve the quality of the programs.

At Skyline Ethel Manifold is office manager; Mickey Strickland, food service director, and Roy Lee Strickland, maintenance specialist. Other local employees include Janice Stanford, Frances Tate, Estelle Hale, Carolyn Beason, Sibyl Tipton, Roy Strickland, Jr., Orene Ledbetter, Angie Presswood, Jessie Mae Crider, Paul Presswood, and Barry Goss.

"We're proud of the quality of our staff employees for this summer," says Director Hooks. "Their loyalty means a lot to us." Boys sessions are June 13-26. Girls: June 28-July 11; July 11-26; July 28-Aug. 10.

VALLEY VIEW

Owner-Director Nancy Jones says that because Valley View is an equestrian camp, each camper gets a horse for the time she is there and can learn as much about horses as her curiosity demands. "She can ride English and western and spend 2-4 hours per day with horses. We start beginners properly, and school dressage riders for showing." She is especially proud that the camp has been approved as a clinic site for the Camp Horsemanship Association to hold sanctioned certification clinics for all camps in the area.

Both clinics have been filled by the other camps in the Mentone-Cloudland area. Riding programs will be improved and made safer by application of CHA regulations. All campers will be able to earn certificates of merit. The certification clinics will be conducted by Bert and Betsy Chandler, who will be living at Valley View year-round, working with the Quarter Horse Training and Summer Camp Program.

After the summer program is over, riding lessons in Western and English Equitation for all levels of riding will be offered, the same programs offered the summer campers. "We are delighted to welcome the Chandlers and their family to the Lookout Mountain area," says Director Jones. "We invite anyone to call and visit our beautiful place at the Cloudland intersection." (404) 862-2231. Sessions begin June 15 and end Aug. 8.

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WOODMONT

Woodmont is a camp for boys and girls, ages 7-16. Located just north of Cloudland, it accepts up to 80 campers for sessions of one to five weeks.

The program is centered around four basic areas: arts and crafts, sports and games, aquatics, and nature lore. Campers may choose from among the following activities: canoeing, gymnastics, karate, arts and crafts, softball, soccer, archery, volleyball, badminton, swimming, games, hiking, skating, golf, horseshoes, pingpong, basketball, dancing, first aid, and horseback riding.

Evenings the campers get together for signing camp songs, skits, talent shows, campfire programs, folk dancing, and team competition.

Facilities at Woodmont center around a large dining hall/lodge for meals, games, and nighttime fun. The cabins sleep up to eight campers and one or two counselors. There is a large central bathhouse, a swimming pool, an open air pavilion for outdoor activities and games, a football field, hiking trails, play areas, and a small lake for fishing and canoeing.

Family camps make it possible for entire families to utilize the programs and facilities of Woodmont.

Lookout Mt. Camping Group In Second Meeting

The second meeting of the Lookout Mountain Camping Association was at the Lookout Restaurant on April 29, with President Dick O'Ferrall officiating. Others present were Glenn Miller, John Thomas, John Morrison, Polly Cameron, Marty Griffin, Rob Hammond, Nancy Jones, John Espy, Paula Koos, Becky and Don Guin, and Rocky Watson.

Nancy Jones reported on progress toward installation of directional signs to the camps, anticipating little difficulty on the Georgia side. The group will try to have the signs up by next fall. According to Nancy, the Cloudland Fire Department now has a nine rating, which means a 30 percent reduction on insurance for the Georgia camps. A letter was read indicating possibility of pooling insurance policies with one company to get reduced rates.

Rocky Watson told the group of necessary procedures for non-profit status. He suggested that LMCA become a legal corporation. Motion was made and passed to incorporate, the board of directors being made up of the camp director or his appointee from each camp.

Dick reported that in the auctioning of the Comer Scout property all bids had been rejected because there was no access to the property and there was difficulty in obtaining clear title. Comer is still interested in selling the property, but the motion has gone back to the scout council for review. The Nature Conservancy is still interested in buying the property. — Digested from the minutes of Secretary Marty Griffin.

COMER SCOUT RESERVATION

(Continued From Page 5)

ing, swimming, archery, environmental science, wilderness survival, first aid, rifle, canoeing, cooking, motorboating, forestry, pioneering, soil and water conservation, leatherwork, basketry, woodcarving, and God and Country.

A Comer camping experience can be part of a family vacation time because scoutmasters, troop commissioners, and dads are all volunteer workers. Waterfront facilities include opportunities for boys to learn to swim, paddle a canoe, learn lifesaving, row a boat, and in general learn a great deal about aquatics.

Camp Comer is available throughout the year for programs involving Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, and similar activities.

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VALLEY HEAD WOMEN'S CLUB

The Mentone Inn was the meeting place for Valley Head Woman's Club on Wednesday, April 16, 1986. Members were greeted by hostesses, Mrs. Claude Howe, Mrs. Hal Howe, Mrs. Paul White and Mrs. Carl Wiegand.

Mrs. Edward Disney presided at the meeting. Devotional on "Roses and Wheat" was brought by Mrs. Richard C. Meadows.

End-of-year luncheon will be held at noon on May 21st at Lookout Restaurant, Cloudland, Georgia. Next October the club has been asked to be hostess at the Winston Home in Valley Head for a group who will be touring historic sites in our area.

Mrs. Edwin M. Tuttle, Program Chairman, introduced the speaker for the day, Mr. Amon Wilkes, Chief Clinical Dietician, Baptist Medical Center-DeKalb. Mr. Wilkes enlightened us on our nutritional needs and made us aware that he is available to help us with our dietetic needs at all times. — Jane Meadows

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CHARNEY HOWELL**





## Music, Food, Craft

(Continued From Page 1)

p.m. a program of varied music is to be presented upstairs at The Hitching Post. Music arranged by James Bryan includes Tennessee Tom and Joe Hicks, who operate a dulcimer shop on Lookout Mountain and play such instruments as violin, guitar, and piano.

The Sunday events of the festival begin at 12 noon, with a continuation of Saturday's varied entertainment and food. Tony Goggans will again coordinate as emcee.

Angelo Rosario, coordinator of the parade at 2 p.m., thinks this will be the biggest ever in town. It will include antique cars, Boy Scout troops, the Fort Payne Honor Guard, Valley Head High School Band, the Mentone Fire Truck, Ed Jones' Clydesdale horses, regional mayors, and many other special attractions. Assisting in details of the parade is Guy McCarty.

The festival is a project of the Mentone Area Preservation Association. Chairperson of the committee on arrangements is Donna Buckley, MAPA's associate director, assisted by Bill Riedesel (publicity), Angelo Rosario (parade), Jane Blansit and Grace Howard (beauty pageant), Shurleen Froehner (signs and quilt raffle sales), Randy Still and Harrell Jenkins (rhododendron sales), Bernice Crow (food concessions and entertainment), Homer Crow (boat rides).

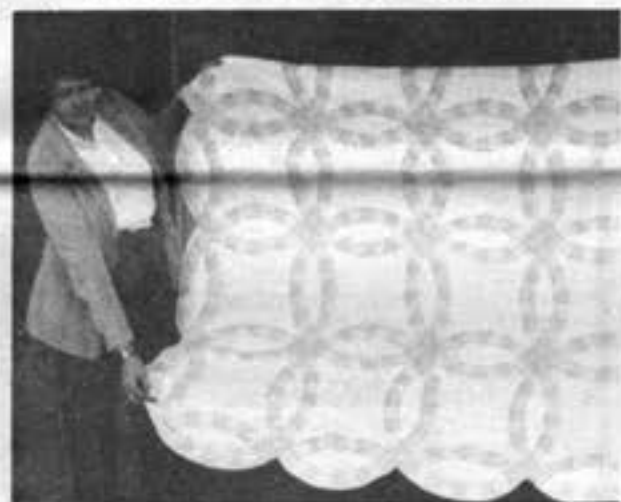
## Doc Long To Teach In Rising Fawn

Plans have been announced for Charles Counts' 1986 Rising Fawn Center Schedule. Of interest to Mentone residents is the week of June 16-20.

Title of the week-long workshops is "Focus on Design and Composition." It is a week with two masters: (1) Dorothy Gannon, director of Gannon Art Center in Chattanooga and a top award winner; She will teach "Drawing and Design." (2) Durwood, "Doc" Long, of Mentone, will teach "Photography Composition." Doc is well known as a master photographer.

Each artist will teach for a half day. It is an opportunity for beginners as well as for reviewing in the visual arts. Interested persons may call Doc at 634-4423 in Mentone or Charles Counts at 404-352-5398 in Atlanta. Charles Counts' Atlanta address is Pottery Workshop, Tula 1-B, 75 Bennett St. NW, Atlanta, GA 30309.

## Rhododendron Quilt



Shown here is the Rhododendron Quilt held by Jean Elrod of Crow's Nest Antiques. The quilt is a double wedding ring pattern, coordinated by Maggie Cordell.

## Caravans Converge

(Continued From Page 1)

Billy McDow is the chairman of the tri-state commission which organized and mapped out the parkway. Other members include Tommy and Bonny Jean Thomas, Hidden Hollow Farm, Chickamauga; Bill Chapin, Rock City; Jim Eastman, Lookout Mountain Incline; Carl Gibson, Ruby Falls; Ruth Moore, Dade County; Dr. Paul Nolan, Hamilton County Commission; Joe Barnes, Nocalula Falls; Charles R. Moody, Alabama Advisory Committee; Pat Shippey, Ala. Bureau of Tourism and Travel; Bernice and Homer Crow, secretary and advisory board member; Ralph A. Meade, Cherokee County Commission; Jerry L. Gladden, Nocalula Falls Park; Lloyd Wagnon, Tourism Director, Gadsden-Etowah Chamber of Commerce; Rep. Richard J. Lindsey, Cherokee, Cleburne, DeKalb Counties; Donna Buckley, MAPA Rhododendron Festival Chairman; Pamela Smith, Chattooga County; Janice Smith, President, Cloudland Property Owners; Robert L. Smith, Chattooga County delegate; Joe S. Pless, Chattooga County delegate; Don Clark and Steve Speer, Bara Advertising Company for the brochures; Jackie G. Weaver, Collinsville; Fayne Lindsey, Centre, county engineer; Larry Moore, Dade County Commissioner.

At its March meeting, the DeKalb County Commission voted funds to erect the signs in the county.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Vital Signs

The Fort Payne High School Science Club hosted a variety show on April 17 at 7:00 p.m. in the gym. Mentone student David Lusk played lead guitar and vocals for a rock band entitled "Vital Signs." Bennett Morrison and Greg Purvis assisted with band preparations.

\*\*\*\*\*

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## Political Rally

The Professional and Business Association of Hammondville, Mentone, Valley Head, and Sulphur Springs will have a political rally May 31 at Hammondville Park. All candidates are invited to come and speak.

There will be crafts displayed along with booths by charitable organizations. There also will be live entertainment. A barbecue plate will be served beginning at 10 a.m.

Mayor Dorothy Blackburn of Hammondville says, "Everyone is invited to come. Bring your lawn chairs and hear the candidates speak."

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# Kirk Remembers

(Continued From Front Cover)

salt pork to cook my beans with?"

"Oh, she was a real character," he remembers. He helped to move her few belongings from her former residence at Ned Jackson's home (now the site of Cragmere Manna Restaurant) and remembers how she appropriated Col. Howard's rocker for herself. After having asked the colonel whether or not he used the chair frequently, she replied, "Well, I'll use it everyday," and forthwith she picked up the chair, placed it on her head, and marched off to the cabin she had taken as her own.

"After her eyes became dim," Kirk says, "She would ask some of us boys to go with her to pick berries. And I recall that she'd sit in her rocking chair with the dog she called 'Buss' in her lap. He'd jump down when she stood."

Did young Frank believe all of the stories Granny Dollar told? "Some of them must have been fabricated. The old-timers said some were not so. I can't say for sure," he says.

Kirk grew up to become one of the Navy's first pilots and a designer of note, with commendations from the Secretary of the Navy for at least two of his shipboard improvements. These included an aid for the landing wire hydraulics aboard carriers and a safety valve for carbon dioxide stored with gasoline in the hold of carriers. At the time of his retirement from the Navy, he was scheduled to go to Cornell University to teach younger men how to design models to test missiles in wind tunnels.

But the successful pattern maker did not begin his life under the best of circumstances. Born in Birmingham the son of Robert Lee Kirk and Carrie Amelia Kraulhouse Kirk, the little boy was orphaned in his fifth year. After a brief time with an aunt in Birmingham, he was placed in an orphan's home.

"It seemed like I was in trouble all the time, and yet it wasn't my fault," he says. Sometimes I was set up by

the older children, but most of the time I don't know why I was punished." Every evening the children were lined up for whippings. Kirk carries scars on his shoulders and back from those beatings. "I still don't know what I did wrong," he says, "But when I was seven I was sent to a school of correction in New Orleans."

The severe punishment continued in the new school. One day when the children were picking potato bugs, Frank was caught shaking the bugs into his can rather than picking each one off, laboriously. He was beaten again until his shirt was bloodied. Although there was a high fence around the institution, he had noticed that where wagons came in at the gate, there were deep ruts. That night he slipped away, sliding under the gate to freedom.

At a nearby railroad yard he was befriended by a kind black man who stayed with him until the box car in which they were riding had arrived in Birmingham. The seven year old made his way to his aunt's home, where she and her daughter were glad to see him.

His aunt took in boarders; one of them was Millard Hixson, sheriff of DeKalb County, who had come to bring a prisoner to Birmingham. "Let me take the little boy to the country. My father is a Civil War veteran, and Frank can help him and my mother." (One of Sheriff Hixson's sons, Arthur, would become the first mayor of Mentone).

And so Frank Kirk's first night in Fort Payne was spent in jail — the sheriff had to go to court the following morning and he and the boy stayed at the jail all night. The next morning they went by train to Price Switch in the valley and then up Price Gap to Mentone.

"It was just like Paradise to me when I saw their family together," Kirk remembers. He lived briefly above Rising Fawn on the mountain in a two room log cabin with the older Hixsons. He was placed with a younger family, the McCowans, for three or four days. Then fortune favored the little boy. E. T. York, mail carrier, and Leila Hixson, the sheriff's daughter, were married. They took him in to live with them.

"Leila Hixson was as good as gold to me. I recall that I was picking October beans when their first child was born," he says. He lived for a time just a quarter of a mile away from his present home. Later York worked for Nick Davenport in his store in Valley Head. During this time Kirk went to school for a year.

While he was living in Mentone, he went on an errand to a school (the white church near the entrance to DeSoto State Park) and while there saw an older sister of his wife Mabel. "I went back and told Leila that I'd just seen the prettiest girl I'd ever laid eyes on," he says.

After the Yorks separated, Frank worked at various odd jobs during his adolescence. He drove for Valley Head's Dr. Floyd after the physician had broken two toes; he worked in a garage in Valley Head. He had met Mabel Crow, and although at this time they were just friends with no romantic ideas, she encouraged his desire for an education. She herself had gone to business school at age sixteen.

"I kept thinking that I had to get an education some way. I picked up everything I could get a hold of to study."

Mabel urged him to join the Navy. At age 19 he was accepted and sent to the USS Wright and later to the Lexington in Boston. He was assigned to the latter ship off and on three times during the next four years.

Kirk was sent to China; one of ten men sent to the University of Pennsylvania for a course in metal corrosion, he inspected gunboats up and down an 1800 mile river. While there, he was impressed by the extreme poverty. He glimpsed novelist Pearl Buck once when she was on a British ship.

Before his China sojourn, he had applied for flight school in Pensacola. He survived the early elimination processes and was sent to San Diego where he was to remain for the next 37 years. In 1931 he and Mabel, whose friendship had matured into a feeling that they "were meant for each other," were married.

During an early flight on the Lexington, Frank had badly injured his back. His flying days over, he was assigned to the battle force repair shop in San Pedro, the harbor at Los Angeles. The injury ultimately led to his being retired from the Navy in 1941.

After his retirement, he worked in civil service for Gulf Atomics and for General Dynamics. He is proud of having two of his models in the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D. C. One is of the Navy's first airplane, the Curtiss A-1 (after an earlier model had been destroyed by fire) and the other a model (requested and begun by Admiral Joseph Mason Reeves) of the sailing ship The Flying Cloud.

Although his formal schooling was practically nil, Frank H. Kirk, following examinations, was awarded the equivalent of a junior college degree in safety engineering from the University of California system. He was only a few credits short of a full degree.

During their 37 years in the San Diego area, the Kirks continued their educations and were active in Masonic, church and civic organizations. They are parents of the present director of the Mentone Area Preservation Association, Amelia Kirk Brooks. Mrs. Kirk is a past president of the Rhododendron Garden Club and a prime mover for The Groundhog.

Amelia is the owner and proprietor of the Mentone Inn. She and her husband Robert are parents of two daughters and a son and have two grandsons.

Both Frank and Mabel Kirk have a deep and abiding spiritual faith. "Whatever I am now is all due to the girl I married," Frank Kirk states. "Regardless of how black the clouds get, she has always been able to lift one small corner to show me that the sun is still shining." Today the Kirks enjoy their stately Federal residence on 56 acres near the scene of their early lives, so richly filled with memories.

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# Leftovers

By Jean McGehee

Last month when we took **The Groundhog** to Summerville to the printers, we also took along my grandfather's rocking chair to be re-caned by John Robinson. Mr. Robinson demonstrated his talents in front of the Hitching Post during a couple of our festivals. He had a delightful personality — there was a photo of him in the December '83 **Groundhog**, clogging across the parkway by the Hitching Post, nattily dressed in a plaid sports coat and a straw hat.

Mr. Robinson operated Uncle John's Basket House in LaFayette, Georgia. When we telephoned for directions, a neighbor, brother of Mentone's Arthur "Lightning" Goss, told us Mr. Robinson had died a month previously. However, his daughter, Shirley Priest, lives nearby, and she took the rocker to re-cane. Shirley is the only one of her father's children who learned the skill from him.

So this time when we take the copy to The Summerville News Company, we can pick up the chair. My father loved the rocker and had put his hand through its seat in an attempt to push himself up from it just a couple of months before his death. I can remember when my parents had the chair re-caned in Philadelphia shortly after Big Mama's death. It's the complicated French caning, that looks like circles and triangles. Shirley said you can't just sit down and do it — you have to do a bit and then return to it; that's why she needed a month.

There were few material possessions I wanted from my parents' house. One was that rocker. The other things were Daddy's toy train engine, Mother's Wesson Oil crock she kept her cooking spoons in, and Big Mama's sewing basket. The other rocking chair I'd gotten ten years ago.

It had belonged to my maternal grandmother, my Mama. It was a small lady's porch rocker. Mother gave it to me when we came to Mentone full time in 1976. I'd always been promised the chair — I can remember standing on the back of the rockers and pulling the few stray black hairs out of Mama's snow white head. Mama used to play **Parcheesi** with me by the hour. She dipped snuff and spat daintily into a coffee can (with a crocheted cover) which always sat beside the rocker.

That rocker came to a sad end. I loved it too much — took off several coats of paint and made new cushions. Invariably the largest person in the room chose that frail rocker. I decided to move it upstairs and couldn't wait for renovations to enlarge the opening at the top of the stairs. I thought it would fit on our small elevator and angled it in just so.

Alas! The chair shifted while the elevator was going up, and the chair was crunched beyond repair. Although Mother usually thought whatever I did was wonderful, her voice came to me loud and clear from the beyond that day, berating me for having been so stupid. This makes Papa's rocker even more special to me.

The first rocking chair we owned was purchased for rocking and feeding our first son. It eventually wore out and was discarded during a move. But I have a vivid memory that always brings that little cricket rocker back to mind: One morning I got up to nurse our second son. The rocker was in the kitchen beside a gas stove between two windows. I sat down with the baby and prepared to enjoy the view. There was a willow tree, taller than the house, beneath which McGregor used to play and swing on the fronds. Imagine my surprise when the willow tree, taller than the house, had disappeared! During the night a tornado had picked up the tree and laid it down beside the garden and destroyed a neighbor's chicken house. We had slept right through the high winds.

One day recently I went to see our neighbors Fay and Willie B. Langston. I'd been working in the yard and my shoes were muddy. I prepared to remove them, and Mr. Langston said, "Oh, come on in. You won't get them any dirtier in here!"



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## CHURCHES

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Sunday Training Union: 6:00 P. M.

Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 6:30

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Sunday Service: 11 A. M.

Sunday Bible Study Group: 6:00 P. M.

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**COMER SCOUT RESERVATION:** Bob Dunaway, director; Boy Scout camps, June 17-July 14, 634-3445.

**CAMP DESOTO:** Sue Henry, director;

camp for girls, June 17-Aug. 13, 634-3411.

**CAMP JULIETTE LOW:** Kathy Holly, director;

Girl Scout Camp in Cloudland, Georgia.

June 17-Aug. 11, 404-428-0446.

**CAMP LANEY:** Rob Hammond, director;

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**LOOKOUT MT. CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE CENTER:** Anne and John Morrison,

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634-3795, June 15-July 25.

**CAMP SADDLE ROCK:** Marty Griffin,

director; girls' camp, June 13-Aug. 10,

634-4608.

**CAMP SKYLINE RANCH:** Susan C. Hooks,

director; boys' camp, June 13-26; girls

camp, June 28-Aug. 10, 634-3201.

**VALLEY VIEW RANCH:** Nancy Jones,

director, Cloudland, Georgia; June 17-Aug.

11, 404-862-2231. Girls.

**CAMP WOODMONT:** Jane Bennett, director;

boys' and girls' camp, 404-284-5369,

June 17-Aug. 5.

## WRITE YOUR REPRESENTATIVES

State Senator Lowell Barron

P. O. Box 55

Fyffe, AL 35971

State Rep. Ralph Burke

Cherokee Apts.

200 45 St. NE

Ft. Payne, AL 35967

U. S. Senator Jeremiah Denton

Senate Office Building

Washington, D. C. 20510

U. S. Rep. Tom Bevill

House of Representatives

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